

Dumont Shade Tree Commission Monthly Meeting Minutes
Dumont Arboretum, West Shore Ave, Monday June 16th, 2014

Sunshine Law: The Dumont Shade Tree Commission has complied with the open public meeting act, having sent notice to The Record, Ridgewood news and filed with the Municipal Clerk and posted on the Borough's Official Bulletin Board.

Present: Ray Slaman, Abbie Slaman, Tom Fisichella, Sally Tayeb, Mike Kuhn, Kathy Sheridan-Parrish, Larry Tobias.

Guests: Anna Fisichella, Rachel Bunin, Barbara Correa, Council Liaison.

Ray makes a motion to call the meeting to order. Kathy seconds. Meeting begins 7:32pm. Tonight's meeting is at the Dumont Arboretum.

1. Review Prior Meeting Minutes –

- a. Ray makes a motion to accept the April Meeting Minutes as presented. Tom Seconds. Pass unanimously.
- b. Ray makes a motion to accept the May Meeting Minutes as presented. Mike Seconds. Pass unanimously.

2. Homeowner Issues – no homeowners present. Rachel brings up the tree at 11 Delaware that is a town tree and is being allowed to be removed. She wonders how that came about. Ray starts a discussion about the process for a request to remove a town tree. He states that there are many things that are taken into consideration. We look at the homeowner concerns, safety, and the health of the tree. That particular tree was being watch thru a couple of seasons. Barbara asks if residents know the time frame for an answer on tree removal. Ray brings up the 5 days for permits but for a town tree the assessment period is as long as it takes to come up with a proper assessment. It may take watching the tree over several seasons. Once an assessment has been made there is an appeals process. Each tree is an individual case and has its own assessment.

3. Arboretum –

- a. **Maintenance, inspections and general upkeep.** Sally has the Arboretum for the Month of June. She reports that she has weeded in the area of the Space Tree. She has "tied up the daffodils, put in some perennials and annuals. She started at the south end weeding and pulled mulch away from the base of the trees. Sally reports that several trees have bugs eating the leaves. She wonders if Ladybugs could be a solution. Ladybug boxes could be put in the Gazebo. Tom suggests that we should see if we can ID the bug and determine if Ladybugs would work. Tom will call the Extension Service. The Crepe Myrtle that appeared to be dead is coming back to life. New shoots are coming up from the roots. Ray suggests we cut some of the dead away. Anna suggests some burlap for the winter to protect the new growth. A discussion starts about Lichen. It is on some of the trees, but is an algae fungus that doesn't harm the trees. Larry says he thinks most people will look at it and think it is part of the tree. Tom suggests we could put up a block with a QR code and have information as part of our community education. Rachel mentions it could be a topic in the Newsletter. Sally brings up that she believes that some of the branches of the Arboretum trees are choking each other and thinks some pruning should be done. Ray cautions pruning on the younger trees. They need their leaves to gain energy for growth. The Purple Leaf

Plum that was hit by a car earlier in the year is still recovering. Tom suggests we make a list of what needs attention, but for now only trim if there are bits of dead wood. Sally would like us to consider Bird Houses. Tom expresses that he would offer to make the Bird Houses. Ray suggests we table the Bird House idea for now. We need to figure out the “who, what and where” before launching into that project. Tom suggests maybe we could have it done before winter and that Don Trovino, a Bergen county naturalist, said he would come and give us advice on native plants for birds and butterflies.

4. **Community outreach and communication –**

- a. **Newsletter** – Rachel has a draft of the newsletter. Anna will give her a summer craft. Kathy needs to get photos to her from the Arbor Day Art Contest. She will have a photo from the new Dawn Totten field with the tree that was planted. Anna wonders if there is a way to have a section for donations.
- b. **Other** – Rachel asks if anyone has any feedback from the fliers at “Relay for Life”. No one has any. As far as Bricks, Ray says maybe we need a date/event to work towards when we would be doing another installation. Tom mentions that there was an article in the Dumont Doings of the Twinborn about the FOTST Garden Club. Hopefully there will be some new members. Mike and Kathy will attend the Environmental Commission Mtg to talk about joint ventures.

5. **New Projects/Plans**

- a. **Garden Club** – Anna says she has interest from one person so far.
- b. **Halloween Parade** – Anna is going to check on where the Halloween Parade will be this year now that D’Angellos is closed. She has suggested the Arboretum. She will check with the Recreation Department. Barbara Correa asks if we would want to close the street. Tom states that the Arboretum is 2/10 of a mile from end to end.

6. **Dumont Day –**

- a. **Attendees** – Ray asks who will be available to work our set up for Dumont Day. Rachel, Tom and Anna are unavailable. Tom says he could possibly help with set up.
 - b. **Activities** – We could have the boards with Art contest submissions and Tree info. Stumpy with information on the scholarship. Tom is working on “meditation chips”. We could advertise for Halloween and have sign-up sheets. Sally talks about information fliers. Information on species of small and large trees. Also instructions for planting trees. She has an idea to have a demonstration on planting a tree.
7. **PSE&G** – There is lots of activity. Poles are going up at the transfer station. Ray has not yet met with Steve Cavadias of the building department to coordinate with PSE&G on what trees to plant when they are done. Everyone is cooperating fully.
8. **Financial Disclosure Statement** – Ray does a roll call of all commissioners and everyone is compliant and has done the Financial Disclosure Statement.

REGULAR BUSINESS

9. **I-Tree** – Larry says he has completed the input worksheets for the 508 streets in town. Now we need to go out and count trees. He says we will be counting trees 6-12” in diameter within 50 feet of the roadway. Ray asks if there is an electronic app for this. Larry informs us that there is no app for I-Storm. I-Storm gives us a start on doing inventory.
10. **Tree Maintenance** – Tom reports that there is not a lot going on but it is picking up. The first quarter of the year was very light and now more requests are coming in. As of the second quarter of 2014, 156 trees have been trimmed and 12 removed. There have been 12 permits as a result of maintenance requests. He brings up the trees across the street from the

Library. There are several Pear trees that have a virus called leaf spot. He will keep his eye on them to see if they recover. Mike brings up stump grinding. It's done twice a year as of now we have no set date. Tom asks anyone who sees a dead town tree please let him know.

11. **Adopt –a-tree** – Ray says we are planning on a fall planting. It is easier to manage and the weather is more forgiving.
12. **Town Council Ordinance** – Ray reports that in 2013 we had 20 permits. So far in 2014 we have had 23 permits. The permit process is giving us a good data base showing what is being removed. Kathy is getting comfortable with the permit process and will be going out on permits in the future. Ray is working out getting the fee for the permits transferred into the DSTC account.
13. **Summer Schedule** – Maybe we could do an outdoor meeting again in September.
14. **Other** – Tom wants to know if we should decorate the Gazebo for the 4th of July. Maybe with bunting? Anna needs the thank you note revised for the Bricks. The original has Arbor Day in the content. Someone brings up the Chamber of Commerce Street Fair and do we want to have a presence. Ray congratulates Commissioners and Friends who have students who will be graduating in the 2014 class of DHS. Brianne Barker and Kimberly Tayeb will be graduating.

Mike makes a motion to close the meeting. Tom Seconds. Meeting is closed at 9:09pm